

Junket for robbers was police trap

THE HAND-DRAWN sign in the front window of the charabanc read: 'Good Buy Charter'. It should have been spelt differently, for the coach party of 25, who had been expecting a jolly day's gambling and drinking at the casinos in Atlantic City, were instead driven to prison. It was the culmination of another of those police undercover operations which cause such merriment when they are disclosed. Good Buy was the name the police gave to a shop they established five months ago in Manhattan's Diamond District, on West 47th Street off Fifth Avenue, for the purpose of buying stolen property. During that time, police say they bought goods worth \$2.5m although they paid only \$8,000 for them. The discrepancy was caused by the fact that much of the property was stolen bonds which are hard to sell and therefore command a low price on the undercover market.



After they set up the shop, describing themselves as 'buyers of gold and silver', the police said it was not long before word of their willingness to buy stolen property circulated in the underworld. They received a

steady flow of offers and propositions, including one from a man who wanted their help in killing and robbing a Brooklyn couple.

Soon the operators of Good Buy informed their clients that, to celebrate the imminence of spring, they would be organizing a gambling trip to Atlantic City to reward their loyal patrons. There would be free champagne and \$1,000 of stake money each. The day trippers were to meet yesterday morning at Sullivan's Bar on Eighth Avenue at 46th Street, not far from the Diamond District. When the group of 25 had assembled they were all placed under arrest. Then they were loaded on to the coach and driven, not to the seaside, but to the police station. There, 11 of the 25 were charged with possessing stolen goods and the remainder held for questioning. Police are still looking for 18 of their customers who, with apparent foresight, did not go.

The Times (BrE)

Sentence structure

A Circle the item that fits the space, then refer to the text.

The hand-drawn sign in the front window of the charabanc read: 'Good Buy Charter'. ¹..... should have been spelt differently, ²..... the coach party of 25, ³..... had been expecting a jolly day's gambling and drinking at the casinos in Atlantic City, were instead driven to prison. ⁴..... was the culmination of another of those police undercover operations ⁵..... cause such merriment ⁶..... they are disclosed. Good Buy was the name ⁷..... the police gave to a shop ⁸..... they established five months ago in Manhattan's Diamond District. (Il. 1-16)

- | | | |
|-----------|-------|--------------|
| 1 a Which | b It | c - |
| 2 a for | b why | c because of |
| 3 a whom | b - | c who |

- | | | |
|--------|---------|-----|
| 4 a It | b Which | c - |
|--------|---------|-----|

- | | | |
|----------|--------|---------|
| 5 a who | b - | c which |
| 6 a when | b as | c while |
| 7 a who | b whom | c - |
| 8 a who | b whom | c - |

B Supply the connecting words, then check against the text.

¹ *After* they set up the shop, ² *(describe)* themselves as 'buyers of gold and silver', the police said it was not long ³ word of their willingness ⁴ *(buy)* stolen property circulated in the underworld. ⁵ received a steady flow of offers and propositions, ⁶ *(include)* one from a man ⁷ wanted their help in ⁸ *(kill)* and ⁹ *(rob)* a Brooklyn couple. ¹⁰ the operators of Good Buy informed their clients that, ¹¹ *(celebrate)* the imminence of spring, they would be organizing a gambling trip to Atlantic City ¹² *(reward)* their loyal patrons. ¹³ would be free champagne and \$1,000 of stake money each. The day trippers were to meet yesterday morning at Sullivan's Bar on Eighth Avenue at 46th Street. (Il. 27-47)

Grammar points

- C** The *hand-drawn* sign in the front window of the charabanc read: ... (ll. 1–3)
What part of speech is *hand-drawn*? Write the phrase from which it has been formed.

Complete each unfinished sentence.

- 1 They make all this pottery by hand.
- 2 They pick these strawberries by hand.
- 3 They build these cars by hand.
- 4 They write these letters by hand.
- 5 They feed these calves by hand.
- 6 They paint this pottery by hand.

It's all *hand-made*.

They're all

They're all

They're all

They're all

It's all

- D** What's the difference in meaning between these two sentences?

- a It read: 'Good Buy Charter'. It **should have been spelt** differently. (ll. 3–5)
- b The letter was so urgent, it **had to be sent** by special delivery.

Write the active and passive forms of *should have*.

- 1 They didn't spell it correctly. (differently)

a *They should have spelt it differently.*

b *It should have been spelt differently.*

- 2 They didn't teach us well. (better)

a

b

- 3 They didn't fry the chops long enough. (longer)

a

b

- E** *Goods* has no singular form. Can you think of other nouns like this?

During that time, police say they bought **goods** worth \$2.5m. (ll. 19–20)

Supply suitable nouns in these sentences.

- 1 They bought a lot of things from us and we sent the *goods* by air freight.
- 2 I don't want to spend too much on what I wear. I buy all my at the sales.
- 3 I hear you won first prize! Well done!!
- 4 Diana is a very clever woman. She really has
- 5 It doesn't matter what you look like aren't everything, you know.
- 6 I'd like to bet on Black Star winning the race. What are the?

- F** Why is *would* used here, rather than *will*?

Good Buy informed their clients that they **would** be organizing a gambling trip. (ll. 37–41)

Rewrite these lines in the past, then check against the text. (ll. 37–50)

The operators of Good Buy inform their clients that, to celebrate the imminence of spring, they will be organizing a gambling trip to Atlantic City to reward their loyal patrons. There will be free champagne and \$1,000 of stake money each. The day trippers are to meet this morning at Sullivan's Bar on Eighth Avenue at 46th Street, not far from the Diamond District. When the group of 25 has assembled, they will all be placed under arrest.